

May 9, 2012

**ITEM NO. C2**

**RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT AN AWARD AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES, INCREASE THE COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH CENTERS FOR NEW HORIZONS, EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYER SERVICES, HEARTLAND HUMAN CARE SERVICES, METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES NETWORK, NEAR WEST SIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AND UHLICH CHILDREN'S ADVANTAGE NETWORK TO PROVIDE A SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners:

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners ("Board") authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to accept a grant award and execute a grant agreement with the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services ("DFSS") in the amount of \$800,000 for a Summer Youth Employment Program ("SYEP"), and to increase the FY 2012 comprehensive budget by the same amount. This grant award from DFSS can only be utilized to pay stipends for 1,280 youth workers. Therefore, it is further recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into contracts with Centers for New Horizons ("CNH"), Employment & Employer Services, Inc. ("EES"), Heartland Human Care Services ("HHCS"), Metropolitan Family Services Network ("MFS"), Near West Side Community Development Corporation ("NWS"), and Uhlich Children's Advantage Network ("UCAN") in an additional aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$800,000 to implement and administer the DFSS SYEP for a four 4 month period from June 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012.

**FUNDING SUMMARY**  
Grant Funds and General Fund

DFSS Grant Award (1,280 Youth Worker Stipends):	\$ 800,000
CHA Match Funds (Program Administration):	<u>\$ 800,000</u>
<b>Total Cost for DFSS Summer Youth Employment Program:</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>

**M/W/DBE Participation and Section 3**

**Centers for New Horizons**

31 %MBE        %WBE        %DBE

Section 3: 1 (#) Hiring        (\$) Subcontracting        (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**Employment and Employer Services**

21 %MBE        %WBE        %DBE

Section 3: 3 (#) Hiring        (\$) Subcontracting        (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**Heartland Human Care Services**

20 %MBE        %WBE        %DBE

Section 3: 5 (#) Hiring        (\$) Subcontracting        (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**Metropolitan Family Services Network**

20 %MBE        %WBE        %DBE

Section 3: 4 (#) Hiring        (\$) Subcontracting        (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**Near West Side Community Development Corporation**

       %MBE 20 %WBE        %DBE

Section 3: 1 (#) Hiring        (\$) Subcontracting        (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**Uhlich Children's Advantage Network**

20 %MBE        %WBE        %DBE

Section 3: 1 (#) Hiring        (\$) Subcontracting        (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

**EXPLANATION**

In April 2012, CHA received notice of a grant award not-to-exceed \$800,000 from DFSS to provide stipends for 1,280 youth and young adults ages 14-24 to participate in a SYEP. With funding from DFSS, the SYEP is being implemented as a part of One Summer Chicago, which is a collaborative effort between the City of Chicago, Cook County and the civic and business communities to provide summer programming for youth. The DFSS grant agreement with DFSS stipulates that the grant funds may only be used for youth worker stipends.

Accordingly, CHA must match the grant funding from DFSS to cover the cost of program coordination, implementation and supervision. The goals of the SYEP are aligned with CHA's corporate strategy, including creating healthy and strong communities and helping families maximize their potential. Specifically, CHA's Resident Services Division is seeking to authorize a total of \$1,600,000 for the DFSS SYEP to be utilized as follows:

- The total \$800,000 from the DFSS grant funds to pay stipends to 1,280 youth workers;
- Enter into contracts with CNH, EES, HHCS, MFS, NWS and UCAN for the remaining balance in an aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$800,000 to administer the SYEP for the period of June 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012.

**Program Model & Benefit to Participants**

The SYEP is a youth summer training, skill development and employment opportunity for 14 – 24 year olds. The intention of the SYEP is to provide Chicago youth and young adults with safe, meaningful summer experiences, while learning valuable and transferable skills that connect life lessons and academic preparation, ultimately enhancing participants' long-term employment prospects. Specifically, CHA will utilize the DFSS grant funds to place 1,200 youth age 14-20 in employment positions and 80 young adults age 21-24 in supervisory roles. Youth workers will participate in a variety of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to, technology, "green" jobs, retail, and landscaping/gardening.

Participants will be engaged up-to 20 hours per week for 6-weeks. The anticipated term for the program is July 9, 2012 through August 17, 2012. Participants will spend up-to 12 hours per week engaging directly in employment activities at the assigned worksite and up-to eight (8) program hours per week on educational and soft skills training. Certain placements may allow

for more working hours and fewer soft skills training hours. All participants will complete an assessment with their FamilyWorks provider to assess basic skills and identify career interests in order to match youth with appropriate work sites. FamilyWorks' ongoing relationships within the communities allow them to find meaningful employment for youth participants.

Qualified and experienced FamilyWorks staff will provide job readiness training to SYEP participants including but not be limited to, resume development, behavior in the workplace, interview skills, time management, effective communication and technology literacy. Young adult supervisors will receive additional training from the FamilyWorks providers in such topics including interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, team building and problem solving prior to engaging with youth workers.

Youth participants will receive a stipend up to \$600 (based on attendance) for successfully completing the program and young adult supervisors will receive up to \$1,000 (based on attendance). Resident Services will assign slots to each of the named agencies based on the number of youth on their assigned caseload. CHA will utilize a third party payroll vendor to administer the stipend payments for the participants.

CHA staff, along with the FamilyWorks agencies, will conduct pre-program site visits to ensure safe work environments. Site visits by CHA staff will also be conducted on a weekly basis to monitor program conditions and troubleshoot any identified issues.

#### **Contractor Background**

The Contractors recommended to implement the Program will be responsible for identifying worksites, recruiting, assessing and placing youth workers, providing job readiness training, training for youth supervisors and providing additional supervision and program administration as necessary. CHA's existing case management providers, CNH, EES, HHCS, MFS, NWS and UCAN, are the only agencies that have established relationships with the target population and possess the requisite experience in providing similar youth summer workforce programs, as these providers have been responsible for coordinating other similar grant-funded workforce programs for CHA youth since 2009. Through previous similar programs, CHA's FamilyWorks agencies have identified and developed worksite agreements with hundreds of employers that have provided more than 3,300 CHA youth with summer jobs from 2009 through 2011.

#### **Conclusion**

Based upon the foregoing, it is in the best interest of CHA to authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to accept a grant award and execute a grant agreement with the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services ("DFSS") in the amount of \$800,000 for the SYEP, and to increase the FY 2012 comprehensive budget by the same amount. This grant award from DFSS can only be utilized to pay stipends for 1,280 youth workers. Therefore, it is further recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into contracts with CNH, EES, HHCS, MFS, NWS, and UCAN in an additional aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$800,000 to implement and administer the DFSS SYEP for a 4 month period from June 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-CHA-39**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority has reviewed the Board Letter dated May 9, 2012, entitled "RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT AN AWARD AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES, INCREASE THE COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH CENTERS FOR NEW HORIZONS, EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYER SERVICES, HEARTLAND HUMAN CARE SERVICES, METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES NETWORK, NEAR WEST SIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AND UHLICH CHILDREN'S ADVANTAGE NETWORK TO PROVIDE A SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM";

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**THAT**, the Board of Commissioners ("Board") authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to accept a grant award and execute a grant agreement with the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services ("DFSS") in the amount of \$800,000 for a Summer Youth Employment Program ("SYEP"), and to increase the FY 2012 comprehensive budget by the same amount. This grant award from DFSS can only be utilized to pay stipends for 1,280 youth workers. Therefore, it is further recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into contracts with Centers for New Horizons, Employment & Employer Services, Inc., Heartland Human Care Services, Metropolitan Family Services Network, Near West Side Community Development Corporation, and Uhlich Children's Advantage Network in an additional aggregate amount not-to-exceed \$800,000 to implement and administer the DFSS SYEP for a 4 month period from June 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012.

